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TM
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FEATURING THE SOUL-SEARING ORIGIN OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER!
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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hellfire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!™

ROGER McKENZIE & DON PERLIN / SCRIPT/CO-PLOTTERS / PENCILS | RICK BRYANT / INKS | DALBERS / LETTERS | F. MOULY / COLORS | ROGER STERN / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE PRICE!
SALOON
LAST CHANCE, NEVADA IS A GRAVEYARD NOW: ITS ROTTED WOODEN BONES LONG SINCE BLEACHED WHITE BY THE SCALDING NOON-DAY SUN AND PICKED CLEAN BY THE MIDNIGHT WIND WHICH, EVEN NOW, HOWLS THROUGH THE STREETS.
BUT THE WIND DOESN'T PROVE AS COLD AS THE CRACKLING HELLFIRE NOOSE TWISTED CRUELLY AROUND THE NECK OF JOHNNY BLAZE, THE FEARSOME GHOST RIDER.
WITHIN SECONDS, AT THE COMMAND OF HIS BALEFUL, BLACK-CLAD TORMENTOR, A FLAMING TRAPDOOR WILL SLAM OPEN, SEALING TWO HELLISH BARGAINS--FOREVER!

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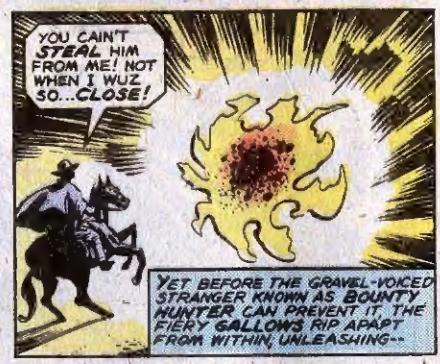
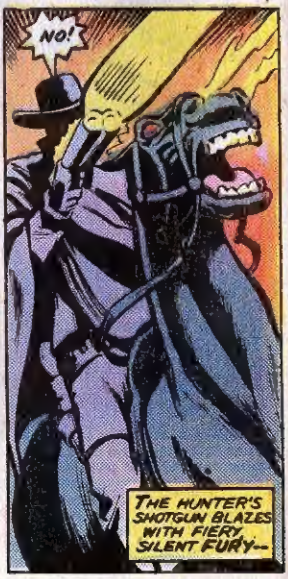

YOU CAIN'T STEAL HIM FROM ME! NOT WHEN I WUZ SO...CLOSE!
YET BEFORE THE GRAVEL-VOICED STRANGER KNOWN AS BOUNTY HUNTER CAN PREVENT IT, THE FIERY GALLOWS RIP APART FROM WITHIN, UNLEASHING--



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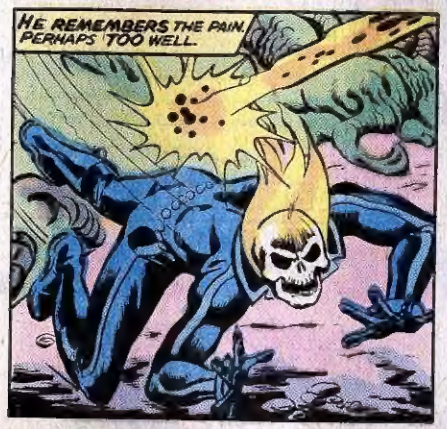
--SEARING THE HELLISH COIL GRIPPING THE GHOST RIDER, HE FALLS FREE-REMEMBERING BEING STALKED THROUGH MANHATTAN'S LITTER-STREWN BACKSTREETS-PURSUED BY THE BOUNTY HUNTER*.
*LAST ISH--ROG.



IT IS A CONSTANT AND UNWANTED COMPANION THAT BLINDS HIM TO EVERYTHING...
...EXCEPT A BURNING UNHOLY DESIRE FOR REVENGE
...THAT IS AS MUCH A PART OF HIM AS HIS QUICKLY-CONJURED FLAME CYCLE.

BUT, FACED WITH A MORE VISIBLE--AND LOATHSOME--ENEMY, THE GHOST RIDER MOMENTARILY IGNORES THE DARK HORSEMAN.
A TRAGIC MISTAKE, PERHAPS...

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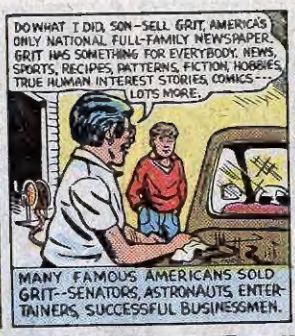
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THAT CREATURE'S NONE A MY DOIN'S, HOMBRE!
AN' I AIN'T ABOUT TO LET IT JUMP MY CLAIM ON YOU NEITHER!
FINE! WE'LL SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES LATER--
--BUT NOW YOU TAKE THIS THING HIGH--
--AND I'LL BLAST IT LOW!
I'LL BLAST IT BACK TO HELL!

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...AN' A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS: YER DEATH... AN' AN END TO MY OWN HELLISH TORMENT!
KLIK
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FER THIS MOMENT, HOMBRE...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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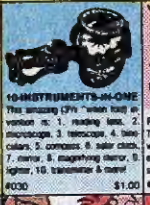

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LONGER THAN I CARE TO THINK ABOUT! THIS HERE TOWN WUZ ALIVE WHEN MY CURSE BEGAN--
AN' SO WUZ I'"
WELL AN'LL BE HANGED--!
--IT'S HIM! MASKELL'S BACK--
--AN' THAT MANGY BOUNTY HUNTIN' VULTURE'S DONE BUTCHERED SOMEONE ELSE!
SHERIFF OFFICE
SHERRIFF OFFICE
KA-
THWAM!
HOWDY, SHERIFF
ROTTEN NIGHT, AIN'T IT?

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'COURSE IT IS A MITE SAFER NOW, SHERIFF SINCE AH'VE DONE YER JOB FOR YOU
DON'T DO ME ANY FAVORS, HASKILL
SKRRRITCH
JUST TAKE YOUR BLOOD MONEY AND CLEAR OUT'
OH MY MAY, SHERIFF PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS WITH YOU
I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING, HASKILL YOU SHOOT THIS GUY IN THE BACK? OR DID YOU GUN HIM DOWN IN HIS SLEEP?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHERIFF?
KASLAAM

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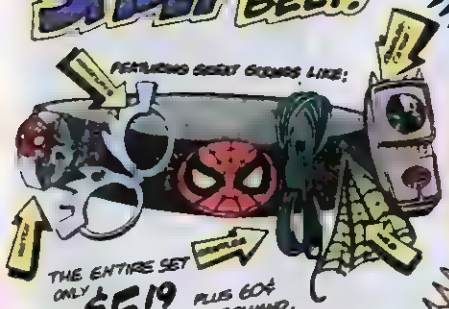

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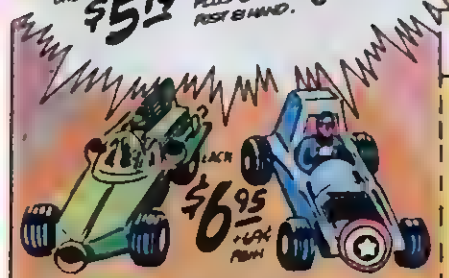

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The sport a boy grows up with...

shooting a Daisy

Here's the new Daisy 840

Daisy 840 SPECIFICATIONS

ACTION: 840 single stroke pump

POWER: Single stroke compressible pump

CALIBER: .177 caliber

CHAMBER: Precision rifled steel

VELOCITY: 840 = 320 fps. Pistol = 280 fps.

SAFETY: Cross bolt trigger block

SIGHTS: Blade ramp front, adjustable rear

CAPACITY: 350 shot BB magazine

LENGTH: 37 ½ inch

WEIGHT: 3 ¼ lbs.

"This new 840 single stroke pump is one terrific Daisy. It's a B-B gun and pellet gun! And it shoots just as great as it looks, too. With all the power and accuracy my son Ken needs to beat me to the bullseye every time. The 840 is the kind of gun he can really be proud of. Shooting also gives us a chance to spend more time together. On weekends, we set up targets in the backyard and before you know it, we're talking, laughing and just having fun. That's one sport boys and dads never outgrow."

John Lindsay

John Lindsay and his son, Ken, "Shooting a Daisy" in their own backyard.

Send for your super new Daisy fact folder today!
Write Daisy, Dept. M-4, Box 220, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.

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Daisy Manufacturing Company, Box 220, Rogers, Arkansas 72756 [illegible]

State or local law may regulate the sale of B-B guns to persons under a specified age. Contact your local Jaycees about Daisy's Shooting Education Program.

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IT WERENT TILL LATER THAT THE STIFF'S BROTHER FOUND ME I'D BEEN WAITIN' FOR HIM.. IN THE SALOON"
HASKILL! YOU KILLED HIM! YOU SHOT MY BROTHER DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE HIM A CHANCE FOR A FAIR TRIAL, HASKILL!
EASY SON THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT... OUTSIDE.
TALK'S CHEAP, HASKILL
THAT'S RIGHT, SON SO'S BULLETS
BLAM
DON'T TRY IT, SIDE-WINDERS! AH'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE
WHILE THE GETTIN'S...
GOOOOOD
KAPOW

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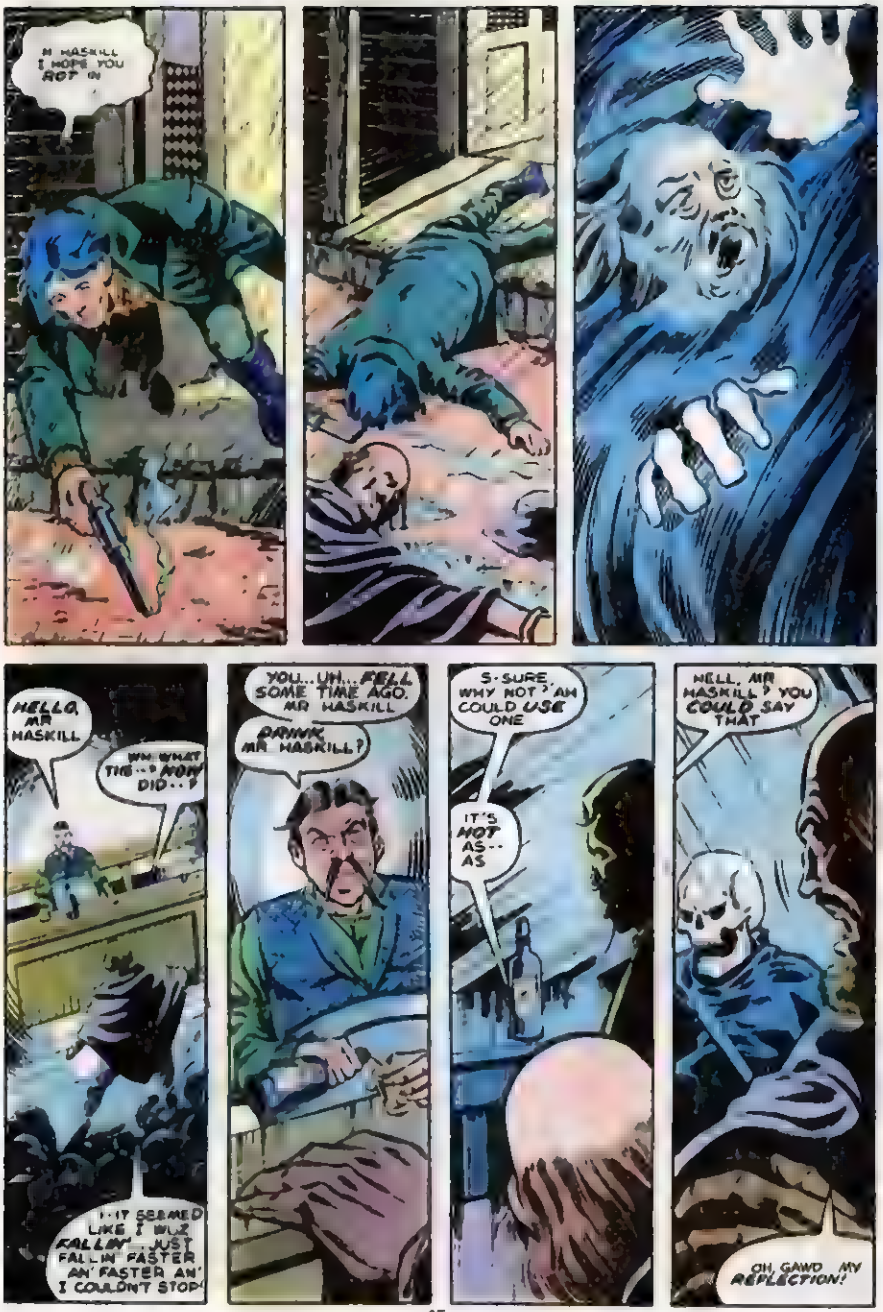
M HASKILL I HOPE YOU NOT IN
HELLO, MR HASKILL
WH-WHAT THE--? HOW DID--?
I-IT SEEMED LIKE I WUZ FALLIN' ...JUST FALLIN FASTER AN' FASTER AN' I COULDN'T STOP!
YOU...UH...FELL SOME TIME AGO, MR HASKILL
DAMN MR HASKILL?
S-SURE, WHY NOT 'AH COULD USE ONE
IT'S NOT AS-- AS
WELL, MR HASKILL? YOU COULD SAY THAT
OH, GAWD MY REFLECTION!

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NO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA GAWD-FORSAKEN TRICK YER PULLIN, MISTER--
--BUT IT WON'T WORK!
HAHAHA!
BALAM!
I CAN USE A MAN LIKE YOU, MR. HASKILL IN FACT I ALREADY HAVE MANY TIMES
YES, A BOUNTY HUNTER HAHAHA! PERFECT!
I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL, MR. HASKILL! EITHER YOU DO MY BIDDING, OR...
AWRIGHT... I'LL DO IT! ANYTHIN' TO KEEP FROM--
--BURNIN' IN NOOOOO!
"OH, YES, MR. HASKILL! UNTIL YOU COMPLETE OUR LITTLE BARGAIN, YOU ARE MINE!
BRING ME FIFTY SOULS OF MY OWN CHOOSING, AND YOU WILL GO FREE! BUT FAIL EVEN ONCE, FOR ANY REASON, AND--!"
BUT I DIDN'T FAIL, BLAZE AND YOU ARE THE LAST! WITH YER DEATH I'LL BE FREE'A MY HELLISH PACT FOREVER!

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THE HITCHING HOUR HAS PASSED! THE
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PAY

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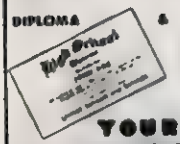

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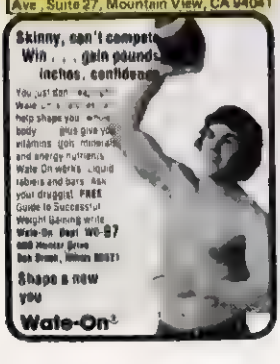

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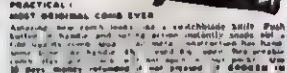

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GHOST WRITERS!

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

GHOST RIDER #29 was a fine introduction to what should be a great next issue. The only thing I don't like about total battle stories like this one is that I usually read them too quickly—but that's hardly a complaint.

The pencils and colors were both very good, but the inking seemed inconsistent in parts. Roger McKenzie's script was thrill-packed and coherent all the way. The presence of Dormammu and the awesome interlude on page 17 were just too much!

In the future, I'd like to see some sort of continued story with the much missed WEREWOLF BY NIGHT.

Ken Hart
540 Lincoln Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10306

Werewolf by Night? It's an interesting suggestion, Ken. What do the rest of you think? (In the meantime check out SPIDER-WOMAN #6, which guest-stars our furry friend.)

Dear Roger and Don,

Another change of direction after only one issue. Whew! Not that I don't like it—I do. Johnny Blaze makes a perfect potential opponent for Dormammu. GHOST RIDER #29 paid a lot of attention to the wild and powerful forces that constantly swirl around a hero like Ghost Rider. After all, what's more elemental and powerful than hell, demons, and the might of black magic?

Never again let Ghost Rider suffer in a mundane world. Even though he still retains his cowboy personality, Johnny's true place is dealing with cosmic, world-shaking forces. I was rather disappointed when it seemed last issue that his world would be confined to jumping canyons ala Evil Knieval. Exciting, perhaps, but Johnny has brushed flames with old lucifer himself! Sequestering Johnny in the wild west, I feel, would be a bad move since his nature is much more huge—nay, cosmic! It would be like starting out to explore the universe and only getting as far as Mars! New York and the dimension-spanning worlds of a Doctor Strange are far more suited to Johnny. Hence, my approval of GR #29.

It's not right that Tomb of Dracula and Dr. Strange should be the only supernatural/horror books around anymore. I realize that the "Exorcist"-inspired fad in this field, which was at its height in 1974, has mostly petered out. But that shouldn't mean that those of us who genuinely enjoyed the horror genre should be axed out by the whims of a faddish public. Johnny's best bet to make it as an A-1 comic is as a supernatural or fear mag, since that's how he started out and that's his natural turf.

Commander Quotey (and his lost Marvel madmen)
1500 LaSalle Ave.
Minneapolis, MN. 55403

Dear Marvel,

I said in my last letter that a fight between Ghost Rider and Dr. Strange would be properly supernatural and super-heroic and I was right. GR #29 satisfied the requirements of both genres. Maybe GR ought to use Doc as a role model, since both have to tread that fine line. Keep working on it, the more super-heroic you make GR the better I like it.

My biggest complaint with this issue was that the whole thing was a sham and merely served as a set-up for next issue. After waiting 60 days for a Doc/GR fight, I've got to wait another two months for the real thing. Why didn't Roger use the first three pages to set the fight up and make the rest of the story real? While I appreciate his wanting to have a logical motive for the two to fight—and he succeeded completely in that—the idea of two good guys fighting each other is such an institution at Marvel that it really doesn't need all that much justification.

The fight, shag tho it was, was still a fun thing to see. Don Perlin is getting even better on this strip than he's ever been before. The splash page was a darn sight near perfect. Like a lot of other guys, tho, he's best when he inks himself (as you folks learned the hard way when he did Werewolf by Night.)

Is there any chance of making Black Widow a co-star in Ghost Rider? The poor girl shouldn't be wandering homeless.

Beppe Sabatini
515 Division St.
E. Lansing, MI 18823

Commander, you and Beppe bring up a problem that's haunted Rog ever since he began scripting Marvel's demonic dandy. While GR is certainly suited for mystic, dimension-spanning adventures, it seems to us the idea of a demon unleashed in our own everyday world is much more terrifying then, say, having GR in a dimension of demons. But as usual, you our readers, have the deciding vote. Any thoughts on this matter?

But, Commander, don't lose heart. Even now Color Magazine editor Rick Marschall—aided and abetted by Reliable Ralph Macchio—are hard at work on a new mag that's so scary the horror genre may never be the same again!

And, Beppe, the Black Widow will return—but *not* in the pages of Ghost Rider. Check out DAREDEVIL #155—also scripted by Ramblin' Rog—and we think you'll be pleasantly surprised!

Dear People,

Ghost Rider! Dr. Strange! The dread Dormammu! What more could a true believer ask for? Well, for one thing, a little more consistency in the artwork. It ranged from poor-pages three and six-to excellent-pages one and thirty one. I imagine this was due to the inking chores being delegated not to one inker, but instead to the "N. Y. Tribe". Hopefully succeeding issues will be handled by only one embellisher.

Other than that, the story was very good. The meeting of GR and Doc was a natural and inevitable one and was handled quite well, even tho the real Dr. didn't appear until the last page. Dormammu's manipulation of GR was well conceived as well as totally in character.

Ghost Rider is a comic that has been steadily improving in the last year or so and I hope this trend will continue.

Robert Karp
Porter Quad, Box D323A, SUNYAB at Amherst
Buffalo, NY 14261

That it will, Robert, if Rog, Don, and neo-editor Roger Stern have anything to do with it. And they do. Of course more letters—and constructive criticism—wouldn't hurt either. We like to know when we've produced a good comic—but we also need to know when we fall on our collective faces. . . tho hopefully that won't happen often!

Dear Ghost Writers,

Monthly! Monthly! MONTHLY!

No name or address given

We don't know who you are, frantic one, but we couldn't agree more! Rog and Don are willing, but they'll need the help of MARVELDOM assembled. Urge your friends to buy an issue or two of Ghost Rider.

Because if they haven't read GR in recent months. . .they haven't read Ghost Rider at all!

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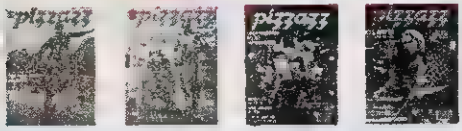
WHEW!



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AND BY THE DARK LORD YOU SHALL!
NO! YOU GOTTA GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE! I WUZ TRICKED!
OF COURSE YOU WERE, HASKILL! WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT!
DAMN YOU ALL! I'VE BEEN BETRAYED!
IT HAPPENS, BOUNTY HUNTER, I KNOW THAT ALL TOO WELL!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT! FIGHT BACK, HASKILL!
DESTROY THEM BOTH!
THEY DON'T OWN US YET AND THEY NEVER WILL! NEVER!

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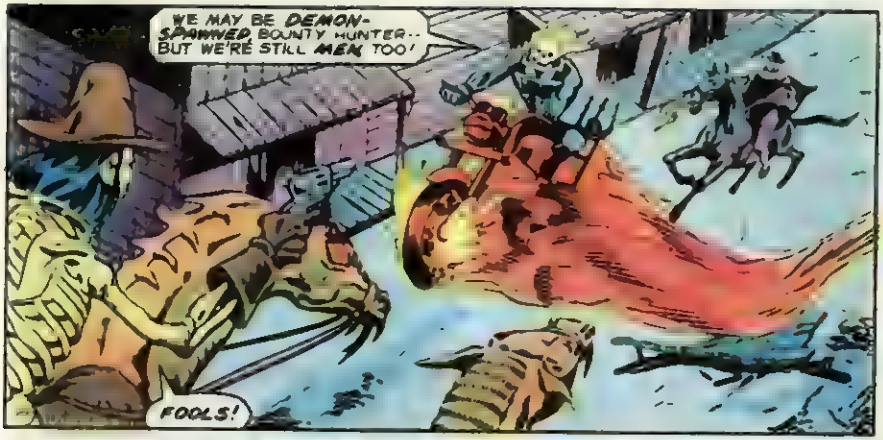

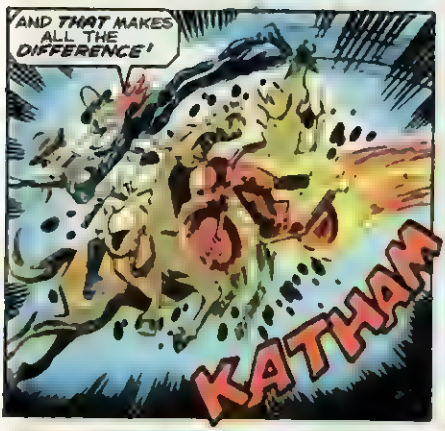

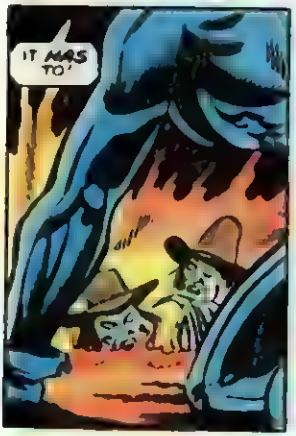

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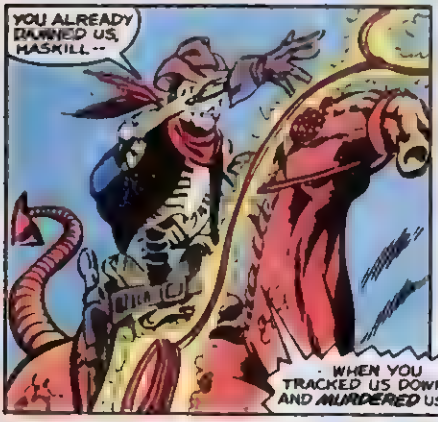
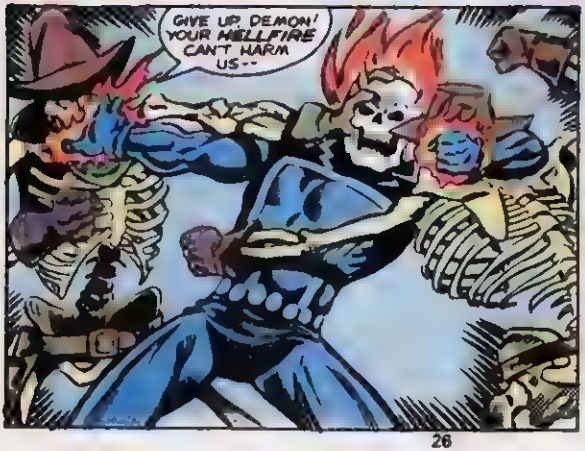
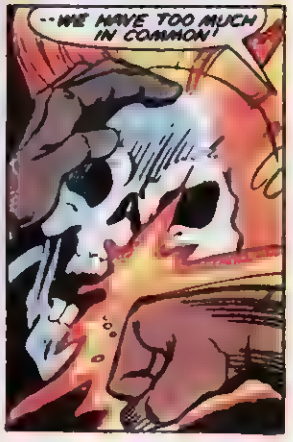


YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER US, DO YOU? WE WERE JUST NAMES AND FACES ON HELLISH WANTED POSTERS TO YOU!
NOOOOO!
BUT WE REMEMBER YOU, HASKILL..AND WE'VE BEEN WAITING!





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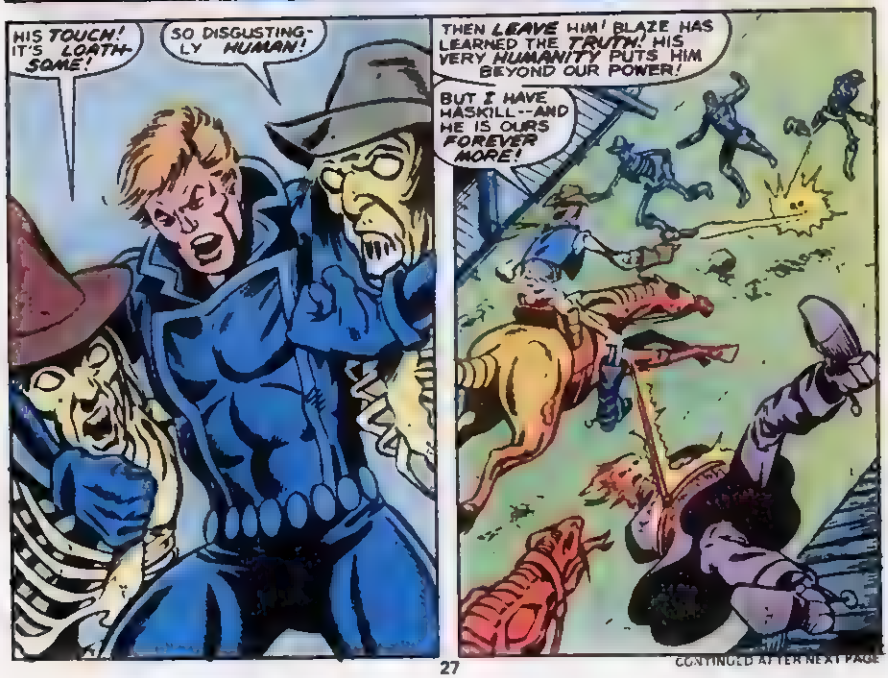
HIS TOUCH! IT'S LOATHSOME!
SO DISGUSTINGLY HUMAN!
THEN LEAVE HIM! BLAZE HAS LEARNED THE TRUTH! HIS VERY HUMANITY PUTS HIM BEYOND OUR POWER!
BUT I HAVE HASKILL--AND HE IS OURS FOREVER MORE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, it happened again! There I was, making a soul-stirring speech at good ol' James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia recently, when one of the frantic Marvelites in the madly-cheering audience reminded me of a promise I'd forgotten a decade ago! He said that I'd promised, in the late sixties, to do a column entitled "What is a Bigot?"—and then he pointed an accusing finger and sonorously intoned, "And we're still waiting for it"! Wow, with my laughable little memory I can hardly remember what I said an hour ago, so I'm assuming the [illegible] and herewith and forthwith shall that so-grievous oversight be summarily remedied!

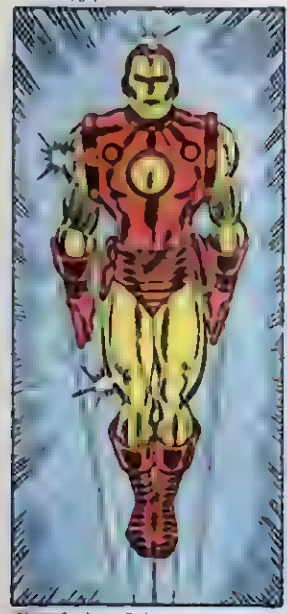
From where I sit, bigotry is one of the many stains upon the human escutcheon which must be eradicated before we can truthfully call ourselves civilized. It comes in many forms and shapes, but it's most easily recognized in the form of cruel and mindless generalizations; such as when you hear some yo-yo say "All Italians are like this", or "All Germans are like that", or "All women are so-and-so" or "All blacks, or Catholics, or Jews, or redheads, or whatever are like this"! Well, they may not be aware of it, but the turkeys that talk that way— and it's always done in a disparaging, put-down manner, of course— are bigots, plain and simple! Anyone with an I.Q. slightly above a cretin's has to know that *all* of any type of humans are never always the same. There are good people and bad people, and all categories in between— and you'll find 'em amongst all races, all religions, all sizes, shapes, and sexes. You wanna dislike someone? Be my guest. It's a free country. But do it because he or she has personally given you a reason to feel that way, not because of skin color, or religion, or foreign ancestry, or the shape of their toenails, or any other moronic, mixed-up, mindless motive! Because, if you just *can't* keep your hatred by smearing everyone in any given group with the same brush, then you're a bigot, Charlie!

Okay, that's it. Never let it be said I don't keep my word when I promise to write about something— even if it happens to take ten years to get around to it!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! In one way or another, *everyone* at Marvel is part of the crazed creative process that produces several dozen of the best comics magazines anywhere each month, but only a few folks can be listed in the credits. Actually, the artists, writers, editors and other Marvel stars whose names you've come to know would be lost without the services of our stalwart support troops. With that in mind, we'd like to take time out to thank Titanic TONY CERNIGLIA and his mighty mailroom crew, MIKE (Great "K") KUDZINOWSKI, DANIEL (Poppy) LOCARIO, and Hopalong JOHN "GALVIN, for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty during Marvel's recent reorganization. Not only did they keep inter-office communications flowing smoothly throughout the reshuffling, but they pitched in to rearrange desks, cart furniture, and in general kept logistical problems from bogging down the creative process. Well done, guys!



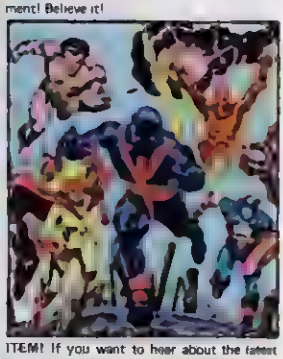
ITEM! If science fiction is your bag, or if you're simply a connoisseur of the finest in story and art, have we got something for you! MARVEL PREVIEW #15, featuring STARLORD—masterfully crafted by Chris Claremont, Carmine Infantino, and Bob Wiacek—is finished at last! For months, we at the Bullpen have been watching with pride as this labor of love evolved, and we feel it's bound to be one of the most talked about epics ever. Okay, you've been warned! Get down to your newsstand *now* and pick up a copy before they're all sold! And, for heaven's sake, if you don't see it, ask!

ITEM! While you're slogging your way through the mundane mire of everyday life, does it ever occur to you that you're in danger of letting down and becoming (ugh) *normal*? Take heart, embattled ones, for mighty Marvel's resident wackos, under the direction of Possessed PAUL LAIKIN, have concocted the ultimate remedy for encroaching sanity, namely, CRAZY #42, which has been expanded to a full 80 pages of Dannigly Dumb humor, outrageous parody and psychotic ramblings, all for only $1.00! We call it the LET'S GO CRAZY SUPER SPECIAL, and it's absolutely guaranteed to quell sane tendencies! It's on sale *now*!

ITEM! Meanwhile, back in the real world, it is our pleasure to announce the regular penciling debut of a certain young artist by the name of JOHN ROMITA, JR. John, who currently holds down a regular nine-to-five job as a staff artist as well, will lend his considerable talents to drawing monthly adventures of the Invincible IRON MAN beginning with issue #116, on sale now! Those who have seen the work of Jazzy JOHN ROMITA, SR (and who hasn't?) on The Amazing SPIDER-MAN, both in the comics and in his widely syndicated newspaper strip, know that Jet-propelled John Jr. has some rather large footsteps to follow in. We've got a feeling though, once you've seen his work, you'll agree with us that he's off to a fantabulous start!

ITEM! While we're at it, we might also mention the terrific job that Dashing DAVE WENZEL is doing penciling on one of Marvel's most demanding series, the AVENGERS. Dave was there in our hour of need, stepping in to help complete the ten part super-cosmic Magnum Opus begun by Jim (Trouble) Shooter and George (Pace-setter) Perez long ago! Dave's dynamic drawing seems to get better and better with each panel. We just love watching future Superstars develop!

ITEM! You may have noticed that yet *another* new art team has been bringing the INVADERS to still new heights of glory of late. Audacious ALAN KUPPERBERG and Fancy FRANK SPRINGER have combined under the guidance of prestigious writer/editor Rascally ROY THOMAS, to provide a virtual visual feast that is well worth a more 35¢ investment! Believe it!



ITEM! If you want to hear about the latest Marvel doings from the Man himself, STAN LEE will be guest-of-honor August 12th at the Atlanta (Georgia) Comics and Fantasy Fair, being held at Dunkley's Royal Hotel! So if you're in the area, or even if you're not, zoom on down and shake the hand that shook the hand of Irving Forbush!

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MOUNT UP! BLAZE CAN'T STOP US!
BLAM
BLAM
MAYBE SO--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T TRY! EVERY MAN DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE--
--EVEN A MAN LIKE BOUNTY HUNTER!
BLAZE! YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS!
FEW DO, HASKILL, UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
NO! I CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

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THERE'S NO PLACE THEY CAN GO THAT THE GHOST RIDER CAN'T FOLLOW! HE--!
KLOP KLEP
WHAT THE--! NO!
BOUNTY HUNTER'S HELL HORSE!
GOTTA DODGE BEFORE IT'S...
...TOO LATE!
YEAH...A HUNDRED YEARS TOO LATE. HASKILL NEVER CONQUERED THE DEMON WITHIN... AND IT DESTROYED HIM!
I WONDER...WILL THE GHOST RIDER DESTROY ME AS WELL?
LAST CHANCE, NEVADA. IT'S A GRAVEYARD NOW. AND THERE ARE NO ANSWERS HERE TO BE FOUND.
NEXT ISSUE
"WHOM A CHILD WOULD DESTROY!"

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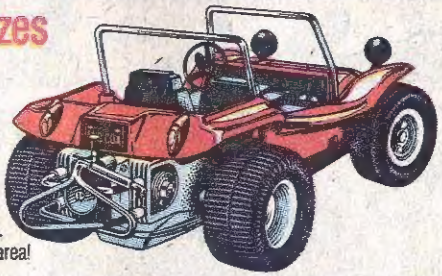

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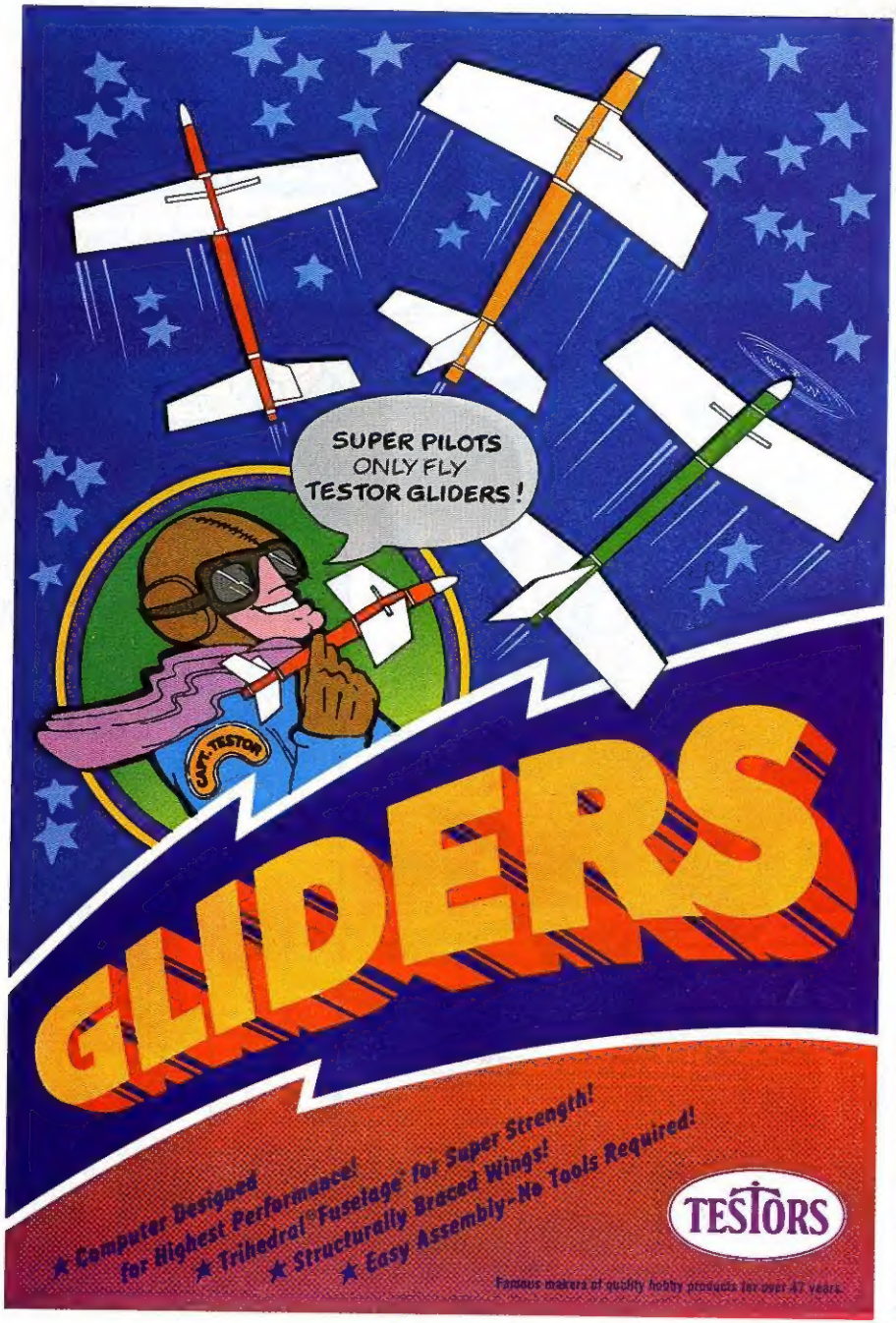

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